

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01851 251240Z
ACTION CA-01

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P 242221Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1330

UNCLAS CARACAS 1851

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, APER, ABUD
SUBJECT: USE OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES IN CONSULAR
FUNCTIONS

REFERENCE: STATE 036883; CARACAS 1146

1. EMBASSY CARACAS HAS THREE HIGH SEASONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NIV'S -- THREE WEEKS BEFORE EASTER; JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST; AND DECEMBER AND EARLY JANUARY. FOR THE COMING EASTER SEASON, THE EMBASSY WILL REQUIRE ONE PIT AS LOCAL EMPLOYEE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL ON FEB. 17 FOR MAJOR SURGERY AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE BACK AT WORK BEFORE EASTER. LAST EASTER THE EMBASSY HANDLED 9,452 NIV CASES. WE ESTIMATE THE FIGURE WILL BE OVER 13,000 THIS YEAR.

2. IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE HEAVY WORKLOAD DURING THE THREE SUMMER MONTHS (49,836 CASES IN SUMMER OF 1977; OVER 70,000 CASES ESIMATED IN SUMMER OF 1978), THE EMBASSY PLANS TO UTILIZE FOUR PITS. PRESENTLY, THE NIV UNIT RECEIVES APPLICATIONS FROM 8 TO 12. THE AFTERNOON IS DEVOTED TO PROCESSING CASES FROM TRAVEL AGENCIES AND INTERVIEWS OF UNUSUAL CASES. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S PLAN TO DOUBLE THESE PUBLIC HOURS FOR THE SUMMER REMAINING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 8 TO 4. THE UNIT WOULD BE MANNED ON A MODIFIED SHIFT BASIS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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REGULAR EMPLOYEES AND PITS INTERSPERSED. TWO OFFICERS AND FIVE EMPLOYEES WILL BEGIN WORK AT 8. TWO OTHER OFFICERS AND FIVE EMPLOYEES WILL REPORT AT 10. LUNCH HOURS WILL BE STAGGERED, ALLOWING THE UNIT TO OPERATE NON-STOP. THE DOORS WOULD BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT 4. THE FIRST SHIFT WOULD LEAVE AT 5 AND THE SECOND SHIFT WOULD PROCESS THE AGENCY CASES UNTIL 7. IT IS

BELIEVED THAT THIS SYSTEM WILL ALLOW THE HANDLING OF
THE INCREASED WORKLOAD MORE EFFICIENTLY AND MPROMPTLY.
IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THESE LONGER HOURS WILL HELP
ELIMINATE THE FORMING OF VISA LINES DURING THE NIGHT
AND ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE ILL-WILL GENERATED BY THE
TREMENDOUS VOLUME AND OUR INABILITY TO DEAL WITH THIS
VOLUME EFFECITVELY. THE HEALTHY EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE
ON OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS CANNOT BE OVERSTATED, AND THE
RELATIVELY LOW COST OF HIRING FOUR PITS FOR THIS
PERIOD WOULD CERTAINLY BE WORTH THE ADVANTAGES WHICH
WOULD BE GAINED.

3. THE FOUR PITT POSITIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE OPERA-
TION OF THIS SCHEME AND THE BUREAU'S EARLY AND FAVOR-
ABLE CONCURRENCE WILL BE REQUESTED SO ORDERLY PLANNING
AND RECRUITING CAN BE UNDERTAKEN.

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